

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 00830 01 OF 02 071634Z

53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

EUR-12 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-04 SP-02 PASS-00 AID-05 DHA-02

EB-07 FDRE-00 OC-05 CCO-00 HEW-06 IO-11 SCSE-00 SCA-01

PA-02 PRS-01 PC-05 OES-05 COME-00 MED-03 OPR-02 AGR-10

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /121 W  
----- 106577

O 062115Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9965

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GUATEMALA 0830

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SECTION INFO)G

DEPT PASS

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

SECDEF NIACT IMMEDIATE

JCS NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO NIACT IMMEDIATE

USDA/FAS NORMAN PETTIPAW

AID/AIDAC/PHA/FDRC

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: SWEL, GT

SUBJ: GUATEMALAN EQRTQUAKE - STIREP 3

1. CASUALTIES. EMBASSY RECEIVED FOLLOWING OFFICIAL BUT  
INCOMPLETE FIGURES FROM NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE AT  
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PAGE 02 GUATEM 00830 01 OF 02 071634Z

2150 HOURS FEBRUARY 5. IN DEPARTMENT OF SACATEPEQUEZ:

SUMPANGE 198 CONFIRMED DEAD, 315 ESTIMATED DEAD AND 300 INJURED; SAN LUCAS 34 DEAD AND 60 WOUNDED; MAGDALENA 20 DEAD; JOCOTENANGO 6 DEAD; SAN ANTONIO AGUAS CALIENTES 9 DEAD; PASTORES 27 DEAD; ANTIGUA 42 DEAD; SANTIAGO 99 DEAD AND 92 INJURED; XENACON 10 DEAD; SANTA MARIA DE JESUS 2 DEAD; SANTA CATARINA MILPAS ALTAS 1 DEAD; SANTA LUCIA MILPAS ALTAS 38 DEAD. TOTAL OF 603 DEAD IN THE DEPARTMENT.

2. IN DEPARTMENT OF ZACAPA: IN ZACAPA CITY 21 DEAD AND 125 INJURED; GUALAN 60 DEAD AND 200 INJURED; USUMATLAN 1 DEAD; FOR A TOTAL THUS FAR OF 82 FATALITIES IN THE DEPARTMENT.

3. IN DEPARTMENT OF EL PROGRESO 590 DEAD AND 150 INJURED IN THE TOWN OF EL PROGRESO; 12 DEAD AND 54 INJURED IN EL ROSARIO; 13 DEAD AND 30 INJURED IN CABANAS; IN JICARO 11 DEAD AND 20 INJURED; SAN AGUSTIN ACASAGUASTLAN 1 DEAD AND 25 INJURED; EL RANCH 10 DEAD FOR A TOTAL OF 637 REPORTED DEAD IN THE DEPARTMENT.

4. IN DEPARTMENT OF CHIQUIMULA ONE REPORTED FATALITY IN ANGUATU WITH ONE INJURED.

5. IN DEPARTMENT OF EL QUICHE 100 ARE REPORTED DEAD IN JOYABAJ.

6. IN DEPARTMENT OF JALAPA 17 ARE REPORTED DEAD IN THE TOWN OF JALAPA.

7. IN GUATEMALA DEPARTMENT 2 ARE REPORTED DEAD IN SANTA CATARINA PINULA AND ONE DEAD AND ONE INJURED IN SAN MIGUEL PETAPA. NO OFFICIAL FIGURES HAVE BEEN ISSUED YET FOR GUATEMALA CITY ITSELF.

8. IN DEPARTMENT OF IZABAL 15 ARE SAID TO BE DEAD IN PUERTO BARRIOS AND 14 INJURED.

9. THESE INCOMPLETE FIGURES TOTAL 1,458 DEAD AND AT LEAST 1,050 INJURED, WITH MANY OF THE ABOVE TOWNS SIMPLY LISTED AS HAVING UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 GUATEM 00830 01 OF 02 071634Z

"VARIOUS" INJURED.

10. TO THIS TOTAL MAY BE ADDED THE ESTIMATES GIVEN DAST MORNING FEBRUARY 5 (AND ALREADY REPORTED IN STIREP 2) OF 6 DEAD IN BAJA VERAPAZ DEPARTMENT AND 4500 DEAD AND 37,000 INJURED IN CHIMALTENANGO DEPARTMENT, AND THE COUNT IN GUATEMALA CITY HOSPITALS (ALSO ALREADY REPORTED) OF 520 DEAD AND 3,800-4,000 INJURED. THESE FIGURES WOULD

BRING TOTAL OF KNOWN DEATHS TO 6,484 AND GUESS-ESTIMATE OF INJURIES TO OVER 42,000. THIS IS A NATIONAL TOTAL BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE ALL LOCALITIES IN DISASTER AREA BECAUSE NO REPORTS AVAILABLE FROM A NUMBER OF LOCALITIES WHICH NEITHER DAST NOR GOG OFFICIALS HAVE VISITED. DAST VISITING NEW AREAS MORNING FEBRUARY 6 AND NEXT SITREP WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL FIGURES.

11. RADIO FEBRUARY 6 REPORTS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED 540 DEAD IN HUEHUETENANGO DEPARTMENT. THIS IS FIRST REPORT THUS FAR OF CASUALTIES IN THAT AREA AND WILL RAISE DEATH TOLL STILL FURTHER IF CONFIRMED.

12. RADIO ALSO REPORTS THAT EMERGENCY COMMITTEE HAS APPEALED TO INDUSTRIES AND SHOPS TO OPEN AND ALL PERSONS TO REPORT TO THEIR USUAL JOBS. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HAS SUSPENDED ALL CLASSES, ASKED SCHOOL-CHILDREN TO REMAIN AT HOME, AND CALLED ON TEACHERS TO ASSIST IN NEIGHBORHOOD RELIEF WORK. COMMITTEE BULLETIN READ ON RADIO AT 1108 HOURS FEBRUARY 6 APPEALED FOR CALM AND ASKED POPULACE NOT TO BELIEVE RUMORS OF ANOTHER MAJOR QUAKE. TREMORS, SAID THE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT, ARE DIMINISHING, AND NO ONE, NOT EVEN BEST SCIENTISTS, IS CAPABLE OF PREDICTING EARTHQUAKES.

13. COMMITTEE HAS ESTABLISHED A SUBCOMMITTEE FOR PLANNING UNDER ARMANDO GONZALEZ OF NATIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL. SUBCOMMITTEE CHARGED IN SHORT-TERM WITH IDENTIFYING AREAS OF GREATEST NEED AND WORKING OUT DISTRIBUTION PLAN FOR RELIEF SUPPLIES AND ALSO WITH ANALYZING MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF THE DISASTER FOR GOG PROGRAMS. MISSION HAS REPRESENTATIVE (USAID OFFICER) PARTICIPATING IN SUBCOMMITTEE WORK AT LATTER'S UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 GUATEM 00830 01 OF 02 071634Z

INVITATION.

14. ARRIVAL OF FIELD HOSPITAL - AS OF 0930 FEB 6, ELEVEN OF PROJECTED SIXTEEN AMERICAN RELIEF AIRCRAFT HAD ARRIVED, CONSISTING OF TEN C-141'S AND ONE C-5. MILGP OFFICER ESTIMATED THAT REMAINING C-141'S WOULD BE ARRIVING DURING THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF FEB 6. THE C-5, WHICH BROUGHT WATER PURIFICATION UNIT FOR FIELD HOSPITAL, WAS NEARLY FINISHED UNLOADING AT 0930 HOURS.

15. WITH ARRIVAL OF THESE 11 AIRCRAFT, NEARLY THREE QUARTERS OF THE FIELD HOSPITAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED. US AND GOG OFFICIALS HAVE AGREED FIELD HOSPITAL SHOULD BE LOCATED IN OR NEAR TOWN OF CHIMALTENANGO. INSPECTION OF POSSIBLE SITE MORNING FEB 6 SHOWED IT TO BE IMPRACTICAL;

SEARCH NOW UNDER WAY FOR MORE SUITABLE SITE.  
MOST OF STAFF HAS ALSO ARRIVED, CONSISTING OF NINE  
MEDICAL DOCTORS, SOME NURSES, AND NUMEROUS TECHNICIANS.  
COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE FIELD HOSPITAL AND MILGP  
HEADQUARTERS WILL BE HANDLED BY SPECIAL COMMO UNIT.

16. LOGISTICS - AT 1630 FEB 5, A U-21 FROM PANAMA  
ARRIVED BRINGING LT. COL. FERRARE OF THE RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE SOUTHCOM. COL. FERRARE WILL BE  
IN CHARGE OF LOGISTICS. THE U-21 (TWIN-ENGINE, 6-8  
PASSENGER CAPABILITY) WHICH BROUGHT COL. FERRARE WILL  
BE REMAINING HERE FOR SEVERAL DAYS, AND WILL BE USED  
TO ASSIST MILGP IN PERFORMING AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE.

NOTE BY OCT: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES. AID,DHA,EB,FDRE,OC,CCO,HEW,IO,SCA,  
SCSE,PA,PRS,DODE,PC,OES,COME,MED,OPR,AGR,CIAE,INR,NSAE TAKE AS ORIGINAL.

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 00830 02 OF 02 071635Z

53

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OPR-02 AGR-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 /121 W

----- 106585

O 062115Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9966

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 GUATEMALA 0830

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PASSING INSTRUCTIONS NOTED SECT 1)

DEPT PASS

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
USUN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
SECDEF NIACT IMMEDIATE  
JCS NIACT IMMEDIATE  
USCINCSO NIACT IMMEDIATE  
USDA/FAS NORMAN PETTIPAW

AID/AIDAC/PHA/FDRCD

17 ASSISTING LT. COL. FERRARE IS A SELF-SUFFICIENT  
ADVANCED LOGISTICS CONTROL ELEMENT WHICH ARRIVED ON  
C-141 FROM MCGUIRE AFB NJ AT 2130 FEB 5. THIS GROUP  
HANDLING ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES AND OFF-LOADING OF  
AIRCRAFT.  
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PAGE 02 GUATEM 00830 02 OF 02 071635Z

18. CONTROL TEAM HANDLING COMMO LOAD BETWEEN PANAMA-  
GUATEMALA AND GUATEMALA-FIELD HOSPITAL ARRIVED AT  
2330 FEB 5 ON C-130. GROUP SPECIALLY EQUIPPED WITH  
JEEP.

19. OTHER AMERICAN AIRCRAFT - AT 1745 FEB 5 A C-130  
FROM PANAMA ARRIVED BRINGING 190 TEN-MAN TENTS AND  
FIFTEEN COLLAPSIBLE WATER TANKS, EACH WITH ONE-  
THOUSAND GALLON CAPACITY. PLANE ALSO CARRIED 5 KW  
GENERATOR AND WATER PUMP. AT 0030 FEB 6, C-141 FROM  
ALTUS AFB OK ARRIVED CARRYING SIX JEEPS AND TRAILERS.  
ALSO CARRIED HALF OF THE PREVENTIVE MEDICAL DETACHMENT,  
WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO SURVEY MEDICAL NEEDS AND  
ASSIST IN DISEASE PREVENTION EFFORTS.

20 FOREIGN RELIEF AIRCRAFT - AT 1315 FEB 5 BEEHCRAFT  
ARRIVED FROM MEXICO BRINGING 5 MEDICAL DOCTORS. AT  
1345 FEB 5 ONE MEXICAN AIR FORCE C-54 ARRIVED WITH  
MEDICAL TEAM AND MEDICINE. MILGP UNDERSTANDS THAT  
GROUP HAS GONE TO ANTIGUA TO ASSIST RELIEF EFFORT THERE.

21. AT 1545 FEB 5 ONE NICARAGUAN DC-6 ARRIVED CARRYING  
BLANKETS. AT 1555 FEB 5 ONE HONDURAN C-54 ARRIVED.  
MILGP UNSURE OF CONTENTS OF PLANE, BUT BELIEVE IT WAS  
CARRYING FOOD. AT 1600 FEB 5 ONE NICARAGUAN C-47  
ARRIVED WITH UNKNOWN CARGO.

22. DAST ACTIVITIES - DAST SCHEDULED DEPART GUATEMALA  
CITY BY HELICOPTER ABOUT 0945 TO CONTINUE AERIAL  
SURVEY.

23. ROAD TO PUERTO BARRIOS. EMBASSY EMPLOYEE WHO

TRAVELLED MAIN HIGHWAY TO ATLANTIC BY MOTORCYCLE  
REPORTS THAT THE WORST PART OF THE ROAD IS BETWEEN  
EL RANCHO (KM 84) AND GUATEMALA CITY. BRIDGE APPROX 35 KS  
OUTSIDE GUATEMALA CITY DESTROYED. IN THE DAMAGED AREA, HE  
ESTIMATES THAT 60 PERCENT OF THE PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY  
LANDSLIDES, 30 PERCENT WHERE THE ROAD HAS "DISAPPEARED,"  
AND 10 PERCENT WHERE IT HAS BUCKLED OR CRACKED. HE ESTIMATES  
THAT 15 TO 20 TRUCKS WERE LOST ALONG THE ROAD WHEN THE  
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PAGE 03 GUATEM 00830 02 OF 02 071635Z

EARTHQUAKE HIT.

24. THE ONLY ROUTE WHICH COULD BE USED COMMERCIALY  
IN THE INTERIM TO REACH PUERTO BARRIOS WOULD BE  
GUATEMALA, BARBERENA, CUILAPA, JUTIAPA, MONJAS,  
JALAPA, SAN PEDRO PINULA, IPALA, CHIQUIMULA, ZACAPA,  
RIO HONDO, PUERTO BARRIOS. THE ROAD BETWEEN JALAPA  
AND CHIQUIMULA IS ALL UNPAVED, WOULD PROBABLY TAKE  
A LOADED TRUCK FOUR OR FIVE HOURS TO TRAVEL IT.

25. FOOD SHORTAGES. A COMBINATION OF IMMOBILIZED  
TRANSPORTATION, LACK OF COMMUNICATION, AND HOARDING  
HAVE DIRUPTED THE GUATEMALA CITY FOOD SUPPLY, EXCEPT  
FOR MEAT AND MILK WHICH SEEM TO BE IN NORMAL SUPPLY.  
ONLY SIX TRUCKS LOADED WITH CORN MANAGED TO REACH THE  
TERMINAL MARKET TODAY. LOCAL STOCKS ARE VERY LOW.  
INDECA WAREHOUSES HAVE SOME CORN FROM THE PETEN, BUT  
IT WON'T LAST LONG. GOG HAS AUTHORIZED PURCHASE OF  
23,000 METRIC TONS OF CORN FOR DELIVERY BETWEEN MARCH  
AND JUNE. BEANS ARE GOING TO BE IN SHORT SUPPLY.  
HOARDERS HAVE MOST OF THE CURRENT SUPPLY, AND  
CHIMALTENANGO DEPT, WHICH IS GUATEMALA'S BEAN-BASKET,  
HAS BEEN BADLY HIT BY THE QUAKE.

26. BREAD PRICES HAVE RISEN SPECTACULARLY IN THE LAST  
TWO DAYS. TWP-CENT BREAD IS NOW SELLING FOR TEN  
CENTS, AND 5 CENT BREAD FOR 25. THERE IS SUFFICIENT  
FLOUR TO SUPPLY LOCAL NEEDS FOR "ONE OR TWO MONTHS,"  
BUT BAKERIES ARE NOT YET BACK IN PRODUCTION. SOME  
OF THE BAKERY OVENS ARE CRACKED, BUT THE MORE MODERN  
BAKERIES ARE IN FAIRLY GOOD SHAPE, AND COULD SUPPLY  
GUATEMALA CITY.

27. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WILL BE HURT OVER THE NEXT  
YEAR OR TWO SINCE AVAILABLE MONEY WILL BE USED FOR  
RECONSTRUCTION RATHER THAN INVESTED INTO FERTILIZERS,  
AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY, ETC.

28. KEROSENE, THE MAIN FUEL FOR THE POOR, HAS RISEN IN  
PRICE 30 TO 40 PERCENT.

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PAGE 04 GUATEM 00830 02 OF 02 071635Z

29. CATERPILLAR AND JOHN DEERE AGENTS SAY THAT THE  
GUATEMALAN ARMY HAS TAKEN ALL THEIR ELECTRIC  
GENERATORS AND EARTH MOVING EQUIPMENT.

30. FOLLOWING MOST RECENT QUAKE AT 1215 HOURS FEBRUARY 6,  
THE GUATEL COMMUNICATIONS TOWER WAS EVACUATED AND  
INTERNATIONAL TELEX AND TELEPHONE OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN  
CLOSED DOWN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

MELOY

NOTE BY OCT: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES. AID,DHA,EB,FDRE,OC,CCO,HEW,IO,SCA,  
SCSE,PA,PRS,DODE,PC,OES,COME,MED,OPR,AGR,CIAE,INR, TAKE AS ORIGINAL.

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## Message Attributes

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